JOHN EPHRAIM AND ISABELL TONKS THACKER MOULTON




John Ephraim, son of Thomas and Sarah D. Moulton, was born September 16, 1860, in the old fort at Heber City. He died February 8, 1915. He married Isabell Tonks Thacker in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on March 23, 1882. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1858, to William and Rachel Tonks Thacker. She died March 2, 1925, at Heber City, Utah. To them were born seven children: Charlotte (Mrs. J. Fred Giles), John Thomas Moulton, Frederick M., Addison Charles, Deyce Bell (Mrs. Hyrum Robbins), Albert Thacker and Ethel Fern (Mrs. Nymphus Watson).

John was a very ambitious young man and worked for his brother William at his ranch at Elkhorn, driving a wagon with produce to Park City. Here he met Isabell Thacker and they were married. They lived at Elkhorn four years, then moving to Heber City. He joined John Crook and Fred W. Giles in making bricks for new homes. In the beginning they made 3,000 bricks a day, but with practice they could make 6,000. They went into Lake Creek Canyon for sandrock for foundations and by 1889 they all had fine brick homes.

John was active in dramatics. He was tall and wore a black mustache. When John and his wife had three children, he filled a mission to the Northern States and was district president.

John was a successful farmer and stock raiser. He was a teacher all his life. He taught a special theology class. He served as counselor to Bishop Thomas Hicken in Heber Second Ward, was Sunday School superintendent and was head of the finance committee when they were building Heber Social Hall. He also was a Stake High Councilman many years. He was active in politics, serving ten years on the City Council, and was elected mayor of Heber City in 1913. The Heber power plant was built during his term of office.

Isabell's parents were converts to the Mormon Church, leaving their home in England for the gospel's sake. They traveled in the Joseph Horne company, with John Cowley as teamster. They left Florence, Nebraska, on July 1, 1861. Isabell was very young, but walked most of the way. They arrived in Salt Lake City on September 13, 1861. Here they lived in a dugout and endured many privations. Her father was a blacksmith for President Young, making nails for the Salt Lake Theater. They lived in Salt Lake three years, moving to Cache Valley and living in Logan and Clarkston. They moved to Smithfield for protection during the Blackhawk War. After two years they moved to Peoa, on the Weber River. Here her father worked on the railroad and was present at Promontory Point for the celebration of the driving of the golden spike. They moved to Heber in 1870.

Isabell was ambitious and worked to help support the family and to pay for her own tuition to go to school, and was one of the first school teachers in Daniel. While working at the Moulton ranch she met and married John.